

JOSHUA TONKEL

218 Morton Hall
Department of History
University of Alabama in Huntsville
(256) 824-2570
jrt0044@uah.edu

EMPLOYMENT

Lecturer of History, University of Alabama in Huntsville August 2025-Present

EDUCATION

PhD	<i>University of Notre Dame</i> History and Philosophy of Science Dissertation: "Harvesting Knowledge: The Development of American Agricultural Science, 1862-1939" Advisor: Prof. Thomas Stapleford Graduate Certificate: GLOBES Program in Environment and Society	August 2025
MA	<i>University of Notre Dame</i> History	May 2024
BA	<i>Pennsylvania State University – Schreyer Honors College</i> History Graduated Cum Laude	May 2019
BS	<i>Pennsylvania State University – Schreyer Honors College</i> Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Graduated Cum Laude	May 2019

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

"Grounded Science: The Shrinking Scale of the Local Environment in Agricultural Research and Extension at Iowa State, 1858-1914," *Annals of Iowa*, Volume 83, no. 4 (Fall 2024), 283-308.

"Reaching 'The Man Farthest Down': The Origins and Early Development of Agricultural Extension at Tuskegee Institute, 1881-1914," *The Journal of African American History* [forthcoming Summer 2025].

NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

"Interdisciplinarity Begins in the Classroom: Teaching a Course on Technology and the Environment," *John J. Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values* (blog post), May 24, 2023.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Alabama in Huntsville	
World History to 1500	Fall 2025
US History to 1877	Fall 2025

University of Notre Dame

Instructor of Record

Technological Revolutions and Environmental Change Spring 2023

Graduate Student Teaching Assistant

Business in America (Prof. Joshua Specht) Fall 2024

War in Modern History (Prof. Ian Johnson) Spring 2021

Science, Technology, and Society (Prof. Anna Geltzer) Fall 2020

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Sloan Prize Spring 2025

John J. Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values

ISLA Research Grant 2023/2024 Spring 2024

Annual Theme: Technology and the Common Good

Notre Dame Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts

ISLA Dissertation Fellow Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

Notre Dame Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts

Affiliated Researcher on NSF Award #2132038 Spring 2023

“The Epistemology of Agricultural Science”

PI: Prof. Julia R.S. Bursten

SHSI Research Grant 2022/2023 June 2022

State Historical Society of Iowa

University Presidential Fellowship August 2019 – Present

University of Notre Dame Graduate School

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

“History of Agricultural Extension,” invited virtual lecture, Washington and Lee

University, December 2, 2024, organized by Ryan McCoy.

“The Pursuit of Useful Knowledge in Agriculture, 1887-1920,” Philosophy of Science

Association Biennial Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 15, 2024.

“‘A Local Activity and a National Problem’: Governing American Agriculture during the

New Deal,” History and Philosophy Colloquium at the University of Notre

Dame, September 6, 2024.

“The Pursuit of Useful Knowledge in Agriculture, 1887-1920,” Society for the

Philosophy of Science in Practice Biennial Conference, Columbia, SC, May 16,

2024.

“The ‘Intergrading Series’ of Science: Henry Armsby and the Pure-Applied Distinction

in Agricultural Science, 1883-1920,” Midwest Junto for the History of Science,

Normal, IL, March 23, 2024.

“Helping ‘The Man Farthest Down’: Tuskegee Institute and the Origins of Agricultural

Extension, 1881-1914,” Southern History of Education Society Annual

Conference, Columbia, SC, March 15, 2024.

“Learning by Farming: Making Knowledge Useful in Agricultural Extension, 1896-

1914,” History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium at the University of Notre

Dame, January 19, 2024.

“The Influence of Agricultural Science on the Early History of American Land-Grant

Colleges,” Transatlantic Workshop – University of Notre Dame / Universität

Bielefeld, University of Notre Dame, May 6, 2023.

“‘Encouraging Useful Knowledge’: Environmental Crises and the Development of

- American Agricultural Science, 1862-1939,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 19, 2022.
- “The Organization of Research: John Wesley Powell, the US Geological Survey, and the Allison Commission of 1884,” John J. Reilly Center Annual HPSTV Conference at the University of Notre Dame, March 26, 2022.
- “Biochemical Networks: The Role of Scientific Communities in Discipline Formation,” HAPSAT Conference at the University of Toronto, June 11, 2021.
- “Prophet, Priest, Professional: The Offices of the American Scientist, 1887-1910,” History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium at the University of Notre Dame, February 23, 2021.
- “Chemical in Method, Biological in Purpose: A Snapshot of Biochemical Discipline Formation, 1911-1916,” University of Notre Dame History Department First Year Conference, April 30, 2020.
- “‘Freedom and Initiative in Research’: Henry Armsby and the National Research Council,” Phi Alpha Theta History Colloquium at the University of Toledo, November 15, 2019.
- “‘Nothing Less Than a Revolution’: Henry Prentiss Armsby and the Role of Scientists in Society, 1862-1921,” Penn State History Undergraduate Research Conference, December 8, 2018.
Award Received: *Best History Honors Thesis Award – Runner Up*
- “Conflicting Views, Common Goals: Marquis L. Wood and the Taiping Rebellion,” Penn State-Pittsburgh Undergraduate Research Symposium in Global Studies, March 28, 2018.
- “Nation and Man Divided: Marquis L. Wood and the Taiping Rebellion,” Penn State History Undergraduate Research Conference, December 2, 2017.
Award Received: *Best History 302W Paper*.

SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Co-Organizer , Notre Dame HPSTV Graduate Conference Committee Program in History and Philosophy of Science, University of Notre Dame	AY 2022-2023
VP of Academic Affairs , Association of Graduate Historians Department of History, University of Notre Dame	AY 2021-2022
Co-Director , History and Philosophy of Science Peer Review Group Reilly Center, University of Notre Dame	AY 2021-2022
Chair , History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium Reilly Center, University of Notre Dame	AY 2020-2021
Member , Selection Committee for Annual HPS Conference Program in History and Philosophy of Science, University of Notre Dame	Fall 2019, Spring 2022

RESEARCH WORK EXPERIENCE

History Department , University of Notre Dame Research Assistant , Prof. Joshua Specht	Spring 2023
Pasto Agricultural Museum , State College, PA Research Intern , Rita Graef	Fall 2017

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

History of Science Society
History of Education Society
Phi Alpha Theta
Phi Beta Kappa

LANGUAGES

English: Native Fluency
French: Reading
German: Reading
Latin: Reading

COMPUTER SKILLS

Programming: C++, MATLAB, Python